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Collaborators



This book written by:

Judith Cherry

Kenneth

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Collaborators by:

Won-kyong

한국말

Alphabet

Notes
Exercises

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Printed and bound in Great Britain by
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This book written by:

Judith Cherry,
Korean Studies Unit, University of Sheffield

Calligraphy by:

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- There are no capital letters in Korean.
- The printed and handwritten styles do not differ in form, but handwriting of course varies from person to person. In this course, the aim is to teach you one simple, clear style of lettering.

The textbook provides a transcribed version of the Korean text as an aid: it will enable you to start the course and make progress while still learning the Korean script. Several systems exist for transcribing the script; the one used in this course is the McCune-Reischauer romanization, which is probably the most widely-used. It forms the basis of many dictionaries and is approved by the Korean Ministry of Education. A word of warning, however: the romanization must not become a permanent crutch, since there is no alternative alphabet to han'gŭl. You will never see books or newspapers printed in romanization. So if you want to be able to read and write Korean, as well as converse in it, then you must master the Korean alphabet. A further problem is that while it is possible to transcribe Korean words fairly accurately using this system, it is much more difficult to reverse the process and write in han'gŭl words that you read in romanized script; the original purpose of the system was in fact for transcription only. So beware of coming to rely on the romanization.

Introduction

Korean is written in the **han'gŭl** script, which was invented in the fifteenth century at the instigation of the great King Sejong. Here are some preliminary points to introduce you to the script:

- 1 Nowadays, Korean is often written and read from left to right, like English, but you will also see it written from top to bottom and from the right of the page to the left.
- 2 There are 10 basic vowels, 14 basic consonants, 11 compound vowels and 5 tense consonants. (For an explanation of any unfamiliar terms, turn to the glossary of grammatical terms in the handbook.)
- 3 There is one letter for each vowel and one for each consonant, so the spelling is regular and simple; words are spelled almost exactly as they are pronounced. However, there are important changes in the sounds of some consonants when they appear in combination with other consonants or between two vowels. These changes must be learned, and are set out in this book.
- 4 There are no capital letters in Korean.
- 5 The printed and handwritten styles do not differ in form, but handwriting of course varies from person to person. In this course, the aim is to teach you one simple, clear style of lettering.

The textbook provides a transliterated version of the Korean text as an aid: it will enable you to start the course and make progress while still learning the Korean script. Several systems exist for transliterating the script; the one used in this course is the McCune–Reischauer romanization, which is probably the most widely-used. It forms the basis of many dictionaries and is approved by the Korean Ministry of Education. A word of warning, however: the romanization must not become a permanent crutch, since there is no alternative alphabet to **han'gŭl**. You will never see books or newspapers printed in romanization. So if you want to be able to read and write Korean, as well as converse in it, then you must master the Korean alphabet. A further problem is that while it is possible to transliterate Korean words fairly accurately using this system, it is much more difficult to reverse the process and write in **han'gŭl** words that you read in romanized script; the original purpose of the system was in fact for transliteration only. So beware of coming to rely on the romanization.

How to use this book

The purpose of this alphabet book is to teach you to recognize, write and pronounce the letters of the Korean alphabet. It should be used in conjunction with the recorded sounds of the language (**Han'gungmar-ŭi moŭm-gwa chaŭm**), which appear at the beginning of cassette two, side A. There is a transcript of the recording on page 262 of the textbook. The letters are presented in the book in the same order in which their sounds appear in the recording. Before you start to write a letter, listen to its sound, and then as you practise writing it say the sound to yourself. In this way you will associate letter and sound from the start.

The exercises are designed to teach you to form the shape of the letter, to associate it with its sound, to combine different letters and to recognize them by associating them with their transliterated equivalent. Writing, reading and pronunciation practice are all combined. It is important that you should be able to complete all the exercises in one section correctly without referring to the tables or the key before you go on to the next section. When you have satisfactorily completed all the exercises in the book, you should be able to read the text of the course in **han'gŭl**.

However, it is not necessary for you to work right through this book before starting work on the lessons of the course. If you wish, you can begin the course immediately, using the romanization in the textbook, while studying this book at the same time. As you progress through the alphabet book, you will find that you recognize more and more of the **han'gŭl** script of the lessons, and eventually you will be able to tackle them using the transliteration as a check only.

Table 1: The basic vowels

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ
ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅡ	ㅣ	

1 The basic vowels

There are 10 basic vowels in Korean. The **han'gŭl** letters representing them are given in table 1 opposite, together with their romanization. The equivalent sounds indicated by the romanization are only approximate, since Korean contains some sounds which do not occur in English. To achieve an accurate pronunciation, you should use the sounds recording and imitate as closely as you can the pronunciation of native speakers of Korean.

First practise reading and pronouncing the letters.

- Listen to the sounds recording (section 1: **moŭm**) while you look at the table. Each sound is followed by a word containing the sound. (Most of the words used as examples are taken from the course text. You need not remember them or worry about their meaning at this stage.) Repeat each sound and example; keep doing this until you are happy with your pronunciation.
- Note the romanization for each letter and try to associate it with its corresponding sound. This will help you to pronounce the sound correctly when you next come across it.
- Now cover up the romanization and try to read out the vowels without its help. When you are confident that you can do this, move on to writing the letters.

When writing **han'gŭl**, it is important to form the individual strokes of the letter in the right direction and in the correct order. Table 1 shows how the 10 basic vowel letters are written.

- Listen to the sounds and trace the shape of each letter, following the arrows in the table.
- Now practise writing each letter yourself, saying the sound to yourself as you do so. First copy the individual strokes and the complete letter in the spaces given beneath each example. Then practise writing the letters on a separate sheet of paper.
- Cover up the **han'gŭl** in the table and continue practising, referring only to the romanization, until you are satisfied that you are forming the shape correctly and associating the correct sound with it. Check with the recording again to make sure of the sound.

Table 1: the basic vowels

Letter	First stroke	Second stroke	Third stroke	Romanization
ㅏ	↓	ㅑ		a
ㅓ	↘	ㅕ		
ㅗ	↓	ㅛ		o
ㅛ	↘	ㅜ		
ㅜ	↘	ㅠ		u
ㅡ	↘			
ㅣ	↓			i
ㅑ	↓	ㅓ	ㅕ	
ㅓ	↘	ㅕ	ㅗ	yŏ
ㅕ	↘	ㅛ	ㅜ	
ㅛ	↓	ㅜ	ㅠ	yo
ㅜ	↘	ㅠ		
ㅠ	↘	ㅑ	ㅓ	yu

Exercise 1

Write the **han'gŭl** letters for the following romanized vowels, without referring to the table.

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| 1 yŏ | 5 i | 8 a |
| 2 ŭ | 6 yu | 9 yo |
| 3 o | 7 u | 10 ŏ |
| 4 ya | | |

Check your answers with the key at the back of this book. Practise writing the vowels and reading them aloud several times.

2 The basic consonants

There are 14 basic consonants in Korean. The sound of a consonant may alter according to the sound that precedes or follows it. For example, just as in English 's' is pronounced differently in the words 'salt' and 'savour' on the one hand, and the words 'president' and 'hesitate' on the other, the sound represented by the **han'gŭl** letter ㄱ is sometimes **k** and sometimes **g**. The variations in pronunciation are not apparent from the **han'gŭl** spelling of Korean words, but they are reflected in the McCune–Reischauer romanization. In table 2, the **han'gŭl** letters representing the basic consonants are given together with their romanization when they appear at the beginning of a syllable, between two vowels, and at the end of a syllable.

Table 2: the basic consonants

Letter	Initial position	Between two vowels	Final position	Letter	Initial position	Between two vowels	Final position
ㄱ	k	g	k	ㅇ	—	ng	ng
ㄴ	n	n	n	ㅈ	ch	j	t
ㄷ	t	d	t	ㅊ	ch'	ch'	t
ㄹ	l or r	r	l	ㅋ	k'	k'	k
ㅁ	m	m	m	ㅌ	t'	t'	t
ㅂ	p	b	p	ㅍ	p'	p'	p
ㅅ	s	s	t	ㅎ	h	h	t

Remember that other sounds can also be produced when consonants occur in certain combinations. You will be able to practise all these sound changes in section 8 of this book.

Look at the following pairs of consonants:

ㄱ	ㅋ
ㄴ	ㄷ
ㅅ	ㅈ
ㅂ	ㅍ

In each case, the left-hand letter represents the lax, or unaspirated, sound and the right-hand letter represents the aspirated sound. (You will notice that, in the first three pairs, the aspirated letter is the same as the unaspirated letter, but with an additional horizontal stroke.) Listen very carefully for the differences between the two types of consonant, remembering when pronouncing an aspirated consonant to produce a more forceful puff of breath after it than you would when speaking English. In the romanization, the aspirated sounds are indicated by an apostrophe (').

Table 3: writing the basic consonants

Letter	First stroke	Second stroke	Third stroke	Fourth stroke	Romanization
ㄱ	ㄱ				k or g
ㄴ	ㄴ				
ㄷ	ㄷ				t or d
ㄹ	ㄹ				
ㄺ	ㄺ				l or r
ㄻ	ㄻ				
ㄼ	ㄼ				m
ㅁ	ㅁ				
ㅂ	ㅂ				p or b
ㅅ	ㅅ				
ㅈ	ㅈ				ch or j or t
ㅊ	ㅊ				
ㅋ	ㅋ				k' or k
ㆁ	ㆁ				
ㄷ	ㄷ				t' or t
ㄹ	ㄹ				
ㅂ	ㅂ				p' or p
ㅅ	ㅅ				
ㅈ	ㅈ				h or t
ㅊ	ㅊ				

Letter	First stroke	Second stroke	Third stroke	Fourth stroke	Romanization
ㅇ	ㅇ				ng
ㅈ	ㅈ	ㅈ	ㅈ		
ㅊ	ㅊ	ㅊ	ㅊ		ch' or t
ㅋ	ㅋ	ㅋ	ㅋ		
ㆁ	ㆁ	ㆁ	ㆁ		k' or k
ㄷ	ㄷ	ㄷ	ㄷ		
ㄹ	ㄹ	ㄹ	ㄹ		t' or t
ㅂ	ㅂ	ㅂ	ㅂ		
ㅅ	ㅅ	ㅅ	ㅅ		p' or p
ㅈ	ㅈ	ㅈ	ㅈ		
ㅊ	ㅊ	ㅊ	ㅊ		h or t
ㅋ	ㅋ	ㅋ	ㅋ		

Listen to the sounds recording (section 2: **chaŭm**) and practise pronouncing these consonants in the same way as you did the basic vowels. For each letter, there are several examples, giving its sound in each of the different positions. When you feel confident that your pronunciation is correct, go on to write the consonants.

Table 3 shows how to write the 14 basic consonants. Trace the shape of each letter and practise writing them as you did the basic vowels. When you can write all the letters looking only at the romanization, do exercise 2 to check your recognition of the basic vowels and consonants before going on to the next section.

Exercise 2

Read the following syllables and check that your pronunciation is correct by referring to the romanization in the key. Don't forget that the pronunciation of the consonant in each case is that listed in the 'initial position' column of table 2. Listen to the recording again if you are unsure of the correct pronunciation.

1	가	6	보	10	코
2	너	7	소	11	타
3	도	8	자	12	피
4	리	9	치	13	허
5	무				

3 Syllable structure I

When writing English, we set down the letters in a horizontal, left-to-right sequence:

c-a-t cat
A-t-l-a-n-t-i-c Atlantic

In Korean, however, the **han'gŭl** letters are grouped in syllables, which are each written in such a way as to fill a square – rather as though in English we wrote

ca	or	A	la	ti
t		t	n	c

Two types of Korean syllable are consonant + vowel (CV), as in the examples you saw in exercise 2 (section 2), and consonant + vowel + consonant (CVC).

If a syllable consists of only two letters – CV – the consonant letter is written first. The vowel letter is then written to the right of the consonant if the vowel letter's main stroke is vertical (ㅏ ㅑ ㅓ ㅕ ㅗ ㅛ) or below the consonant letter if the main stroke is horizontal (ㅜ ㅠ ㅡ ㅟ). For examples, look again at exercise 2.

If a syllable consists of three letters – CVC – then the first two are written in exactly the same way as for CV syllables, and the third letter is placed underneath. For example:

ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅁ	pam
ㅍ	ㅌ	ㅍ	p'ŏk
ㄱ	ㄷ	ㄴ	kŭn
ㄴ	ㄴ	ㄴ	nun

Pay careful attention to the printed forms of the syllables in the textbook, so that you become familiar with the ways in which **han'gŭl** letters are arranged.

When there is no initial consonant in the spoken syllable (that is, when it begins with a vowel), the place that would have been occupied by an initial consonant is taken by the **han'gŭl** letter ㅇ, which is not pronounced in this position. For example:

ㅇ + ㅣ	=	이	i
ㅇ + ㅛ	=	요	yo
ㅇ + ㅏ	=	안	an
ㅇ + ㅑ	=	열	yŏl

But don't forget that when the letter ㅇ appears at the end of a syllable, it is pronounced **ng**:

ㅅ + ㅣ + ㅇ = 싱 **sing**
ㅂ + ㅏ + ㅇ = 방 **pang**

Exercise 3

Using the guidelines given above, write out the syllables consisting of these vowels and consonants.

1	ㅅ	ㅏ	ㄴ	6	ㅇ	ㅏ	ㄹ
2	ㅂ	ㅓ	ㄹ	7	ㅇ	ㅣ	ㄹ
3	ㅅ	ㅣ	ㅇ	8	ㅅ	ㅓ	ㄴ
4	ㄴ	ㅕ	ㄴ	9	ㅍ	ㅏ	ㄱ
5	ㄴ	ㅓ	ㄴ	10	ㅇ	ㅓ	ㅇ

Now read these syllables aloud. Check your answers with the key and then write out and read each word several times.

4 Compound vowels

Other Korean vowels are written with combinations of the basic vowel letters. These combinations are given in table 4 below, together with their romanization. The table also shows the order in which to write them.

Table 4: compound vowels

Letter	First stage	Second stage	Romanization
ㅏ	ㅏ	ㅏ	ae
ㅓ	ㅓ	ㅓ	e
ㅕ	ㅓ	ㅕ	oe
ㅗ	ㅡ	ㅗ	ŭi
ㅛ	ㅓ	ㅛ	wŏ
ㅜ	ㅓ	ㅜ	we
ㅟ	ㅓ	ㅟ	yae
ㅢ	ㅓ	ㅢ	ye
ㅤ	ㅓ	ㅤ	wi
ㅥ	ㅓ	ㅥ	wa
ㅦ	ㅓ	ㅦ	wae

Listen to the sounds recording (section 3: **ijungmoŭm**) and practise reading these vowels as before, until you can pronounce them all looking only at the **han'gŭl** letters. Now practise writing the vowels until you can do so looking only at the romanization.

Note that when the consonant ㅅ combines with the vowels
ㅏ ㅓ ㅕ ㅗ ㅛ or ㅤ it is pronounced **sh**, and that ㅟ is romanized **shwi**.

Exercise 4

Read the following syllables, and check your answers with the key.

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | 만 | 5 | 뽕 | 9 | 뒤 |
| 2 | 네 | 6 | 뽕 | 10 | 좌 |
| 3 | 흔 | 7 | 애 | 11 | 와 |
| 4 | 의 | 8 | 페 | | |

Now practise writing out the syllables several times.

	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ
1	만	ㅁ	ㅁ
2	네	ㅂ	ㅂ
3	흔	ㅅ	ㅅ
4	의	ㅇ	ㅇ
5	뽕	ㅈ	ㅈ
6	뽕	ㅊ	ㅊ
7	애	ㅋ	ㅋ
8	페	ㆁ	ㆁ
9	뒤	ㄷ	ㄷ
10	좌	ㄸ	ㄸ
11	와	ㅌ	ㅌ

5 Syllable structure II

The compound vowel letters are more complex in structure than the basic vowel letters, and in most cases this leads to a slight adjustment in the rules for writing syllables. Where a compound vowel letter consists of two basic vowel letters of the 'vertical' type (i.e. **ㅏ** **ㅓ** **ㅕ** **ㅗ** **ㅛ**), the left-to-right rule is followed. For example:

ㅏ + ㅕ = **ㅑ**
ㅓ + ㅕ = **ㅓ**

But where a compound letter consists of one basic letter of the 'horizontal' type plus one of the 'vertical' type (i.e. **ㅑ** **ㅓ** **ㅕ** **ㅗ** **ㅛ** **ㅕ** **ㅗ** **ㅛ**), the 'horizontal' part of the letter is placed underneath the initial consonant and the 'vertical' part is placed to the right of both. For example:

ㅏ + ㅓ + ㅕ = **ㅑ** **ㅓ** **ㅕ**
ㅓ + ㅓ + ㅕ = **ㅓ** **ㅓ** **ㅕ**

Where the syllable has a final consonant (or consonants) this is, as usual, placed below the initial consonant and vowel. For example:

두	뒤	뒤	tweng
고	괘	괘	kwaen
수	쑤	쑤	shwip
보	뵤	뵤	poep
오	외	외	oen

Exercise 5

(Note that in exercises 5, 7, and 10 words ending in **k** in their romanized form will end in **ㅌ** in **han'gŭl** and those ending in **p** will use **ㅂ**. You will have seen from the table of consonants that **k** is used to transcribe both **ㅌ** and **ㅊ**, **p** to transcribe **ㅂ** and **ㅍ**, and **t** to transcribe **ㅌ** **ㅎ** **ㅓ** **ㅕ** and **ㅏ**! It only becomes clear which **han'gŭl** letter is involved when it is combined with another consonant or followed by a vowel – one of the pitfalls of relying on the romanization.)

Write the following syllables in **han'gŭl**.

Examples:

mak	initial consonant	ㅌ	(m)	
	vowel	ㅏ	(a)	ㅌㅏㅌ
	final consonant	ㅌ	(k)	

hwan	initial consonant	ㅎ	(h)			
	vowel	ㅏ	(wa)	ㅎ	화	환
	final consonant	ㄴ	(n)			
pyŏng	initial consonant	ㅍ	(p)			
	vowel	ㅑ	(yŏ)	ㅍ	벼	병
	final consonant	ㅇ	(ng)			

1 hwa	5 ch'il	8 twi
2 tŭng	6 wŏn	9 mwŏl'
3 yak	7 saeng	10 yŏk
4 kwan		

6 Tense consonants

The consonants which you have learned so far fall into two groups: aspirated and lax or unaspirated. Aspirated consonants, you will remember, are accompanied by a fairly forceful puff of breath; unaspirated ones are not. Listen carefully once more to the examples given in the sounds recording, section 2, to practise this.

There is a third type of consonant in Korean, called a 'tense' consonant. The pronunciation of these consonants is not easy to describe in terms of English sounds, and the distinctions between the aspirated, unaspirated and tense consonants are perhaps the major pronunciation difficulty for English speakers. The best way to master the sounds is of course to listen very carefully to native speakers of Korean and imitate them as closely as you can.

The closest approximation to the tense consonant sounds in English is found when a consonant at the end of a word is immediately followed by a word beginning with the same consonant. For example, try saying the word 'side' and then the phrase 'this side' aloud several times. You will probably hear – and feel – that there is a difference between the 's' sounds. While the 's' in 'side' is similar to an unaspirated Korean s, the double 's' sound in the phrase 'this side' is closer to the tense Korean s. Similarly, the phrase 'book keeper' has a double 'k' sound comparable to the tense Korean k.

The tense consonants are written in Korean by doubling the appropriate consonant letter. Table 5 gives a list of these consonants with their romanization. Practise pronouncing them, using the sounds recording (section 4: **ijungjaŭm**). There are two example words for each sound. Then practise writing them until you can do so looking only at the romanization. When you are ready, try exercise 6. Exercises 7 and 8, which follow, will help you to consolidate what you have learned so far.

Table 5: tense consonants

Letter	Romanization	Letter	Romanization
ㄲ	kk	ㅍㅍ	ss
ㄸ	tt	ㅌㅌ	tch
ㅍㅍ	pp		

Exercise 6

Read the following syllables.

1	꼭	5	쑤	8	싸
2	짜	6	쓰	9	깨
3	빵	7	배	10	떡
4	달				

Check your pronunciation with the romanization in the key, and then practise writing and reading each syllable several times.

Exercise 7

Write the following syllables in **han'gŭl**.

1	pap	6	ppun	11	toe
2	in	7	hwan	12	son
3	taek	8	nun	13	tchŭm
4	kyŏng	9	ch'up	14	ch'aek
5	mwŏ	10	ttae	15	kkwae

Check your answers and write out each syllable several times.

Exercise 8

Read the following syllables.

1	찍	6	면	11	취
2	권	7	친	12	등
3	쉽	8	떡	13	씨
4	돌	9	장	14	팔
5	쇄	10	계	15	팔

When you have checked your answers, practise writing these syllables, and read each one aloud several times.

7 Syllable structure III

You have learned so far that a written syllable in Korean may consist of either consonant letter + vowel letter (CV) – remember that where there is no initial consonant its place is taken by the letter ㅇ, which is silent – or of consonant letter + vowel letter + consonant letter (CVC). There is a third type of syllable, consisting of consonant letter + vowel letter + consonant letter + consonant letter (CVCC). For example:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{원} &= \text{ㅇ} + \text{ㅣ} + \text{ㄹ} + \text{ㄱ} \\ \text{밖} &= \text{ㅂ} + \text{ㅏ} + \text{ㄹ} + \text{ㅂ} \end{aligned}$$

In writing such syllables, essentially the same rules apply as those you have already learned for writing CVC syllables. The initial consonant and the vowel letters are written first, and then the two final consonant letters are written below in left-to-right order.

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \text{ㅇ} & \text{이} & \text{일} & \text{이} \\ \text{ㅂ} & \text{바} & \text{발} & \text{발} \end{array}$$

Note that a syllable never begins with two consonants.

Table 6 gives the possible combinations of two consonants which can occur at the end of a CVCC syllable, together with the romanization. Note the difference in pronunciation when the two consonants appear between two vowels. This difference is reflected in the romanization.

Table 6: combination of consonants in a syllable

Letter	Final position	Between two vowels	Letter	Final position	Between two vowels
ㄱ	k	ks	ㄴ	l	lb
ㄴ	n	nj	ㄷ	l	ls
ㄷ	n	n	ㄹ	l	lt'
ㄹ	k or l	lg	ㄱ	l	r
ㅁ	m	lm	ㅂ	p	ps

You will be given the opportunity to practise the pronunciation and romanization of all the consonants in the final position in exercises 9 and 10 (section 8). First listen to the sounds recording, section 5: **patch'im**, following it in your textbook. The first ten examples are the consonant combinations in table 6. Repeat the examples aloud. Make sure that you have understood everything that has been covered so far before going on to the next section.

8 Sound changes

You will remember that some consonants change their sound when they appear between two vowels (table 2):

ㄱ	k	→	g
ㄷ	t	→	d
ㄹ	l	→	r
ㅂ	p	→	b
ㅈ	ch	→	j

Other changes occur when one consonant (at the end of a syllable) is followed by another consonant (at the beginning of the next syllable), and these changes are set out in table 7 overleaf. You will need to keep referring to this table until you have become familiar with the sound changes.

How to use the table

Example 1: 국립

Look for the final consonant of the first syllable – it is ㄱ – and find it in the ‘final’ column on the left-hand side of the table. The letter which follows it – **k** – tells you that the romanization for this letter in the final position is usually **k**. Now look along the row of ‘initial’ consonants until you find the **han’gŭl** letter ㄱ. The letter below it tells you that this is usually romanized as **r** when it appears in the initial position. In the box where the row and column meet, you will find the letters **ngn**; this tells you that, when the letters **k** and **r** combine, the sound is **ngn**. So the correct romanization (and pronunciation) of 국립 is **kungnip**.

Example 2: 기념품

The first syllable of this word ends with a vowel: **i**. You remember that it is only the consonants ㄱ ㄷ ㄹ ㅂ and ㅈ which change their sound between two vowels, so you can make a start by writing down **kinyŏ**. Now find the ㅁ in the ‘final’ column, which confirms that this consonant is romanized as **m** in the final position, and look across to the ㅍ in the ‘initial’ consonants, where you will find the letter **p**. Nothing is printed in the box where the row and column meet, which tells you that there is no sound change. You can therefore finish writing the word: **kinyŏmp’um**.

Initial \ Final		Initial								
		ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅈ	ㅊ
		k	n	t	r	m	p	s	ch	ch'
ㄱ ㄴ ㄷ ㄹ ㅁ	k		ngn		ngn	ngm				
ㄴ	n	n'g		nd	ll		nb		nj	
ㄴ(+) ㄴ	n				nn			nss		
ㄴ	n	nk'		nt'	nn		np'	nss	nch'	
ㄷ ㅅ ㅈ ㅊ ㅊ'	t		nn		nn	nm		ss		
ㄷ ㄹ (noun)	l	lg	ll		ll		lb			
ㄷ(+) ㄷ (verb) ㄷ ㄷ'	l				ll		lss			
ㄷ	l	lk'		lt'	ll		lp'	lss	lch'	
ㅁ ㄷ (noun)	m	mg		md	mn		mb		mj	
ㅁ(+) ㅁ (verb)	m				mn			mss		
ㅂ ㅅ ㅈ ㅊ	p		mn		mn	mm				
ㅇ	ng	ngg		ngd	ngn		ngb		ngj	
ㅇ(+) ㅁ	ng				ngn		ngss			
(+) ㅁ	—	kk	nn	tt	nn	mm	pp	ss	tch	
ㅊ	t	k'	nn	t'	nn	nm		ss	ch'	

Table 7: sound changes in consonant combinations

Initial \ Final		Initial								
		ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅈ	ㅊ
		k'	t'	p'	h	kk	tt	pp	ss	tch
ㄱ ㄴ ㄷ ㄹ ㅁ	k					kk				
ㄴ	n									
ㄴ(+) ㄴ	n									
ㄴ	n									
ㄷ ㅅ ㅈ ㅊ ㅊ'	t						tt		ss	tch
ㄷ ㄹ (noun)	l				rh					
ㄷ(+) ㄷ (verb) ㄷ ㄷ'	l				rh					
ㄷ	l									
ㅁ ㄷ (noun)	m									
ㅁ(+) ㅁ (verb)	m									
ㅂ ㅅ ㅈ ㅊ	p							pp		
ㅇ	ng									
ㅇ(+) ㅁ	ng									
(+) ㅁ	—									
ㅊ	t						tt			tch

Finally, note that when the letters ㄴ and ㄱ appear together in a word, an apostrophe is placed between the **n** and **g** in the romanization, to distinguish between this and the letter **o ng**. So we romanize 생일 as **saengil**, but 한국 as **han'guk**.

Listen again to section 5 of the sounds recording, which includes examples of the sound changes in consonant combinations. Then go on to try the last two exercises.

Exercise 9

You should now be able to read these words aloud and write down their romanization.

1 가 방	8 악 속	15 여 행 자 수 표
2 노 래	9 자 동 차	16 싫 다
3 답 배	10 잠 외	17 밝 아 요
4 명 등	11 복 승 아	18 알 지 만
5 윈 쪽	12 한 국 말	19 없 었 다
6 밝 다	13 말 하 다	20 삶 은
7 속 박 료	14 파 인 애 플	

Don't forget to check your answers with the key.

Exercise 10

Try writing the following words in **han'gŭl**. To help you, the words have been broken up into syllables. Remember the note which preceded exercise 5.

1 in-sa	6 chu-mu-si-da	11 hoe-sa
2 a-ju-mŏ-ni	7 nal-ssi	12 ō-ryŏp-ta
3 pae-u-da	8 ttal-gi	13 sin-ho-dŭng
4 tweng-bŏl	9 han-guk	14 yŏl-sim-hi
5 kye-ran	10 ch'aek-pang	15 hwa-jang-sil

Check your answers and then write out and read each word several times.

9 Word spacing and punctuation

Unlike Chinese and Japanese, Korean follows the Western practice of leaving spaces between words.

집에 가요. **Chib-e kayo.** (lesson 1)

무슨 운동을 하세요? **Musŭn undong-ŭl haseyo?** (lesson 14)

Korean uses Western-style full stops, commas and question marks. In addition, the symbols ㄱ and ㄴ are sometimes used as quotation marks.

10 Working with the textbook

Now that you have worked through all the exercises in the alphabet book, you are ready to tackle the script in the textbook. You might like to go back to lesson one of the course and try working through the dialogues and exercises with the romanization covered up, using just the script to provide the cues. However, don't be discouraged if you find that you are not yet ready to do this. You might find some, or all, of the following steps effective in improving your speed and confidence at reading and writing **han'gŭl**.

- 1 Compare the romanization and script; read each word in the romanization and run your finger along the corresponding symbols in **han'gŭl**.
- 2 Cover up the romanization and read the script. Practise each sentence several times until you can confidently relate the symbols to the sounds you are making. Revise earlier sentences frequently.
- 3 When you come across a difficult word in the script, try to rewrite it in romanization before uncovering the romanization in the textbook for confirmation.
- 4 Copy every sentence several times. The more time you spend simply copying out Korean sentences, the better will be your handwriting, your spelling, and your knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. If you can actually get into the habit of 'doodling' in Korean, so much the better!
- 5 Most lessons in your course contain at least one written exercise. These have been designed particularly with the student of **han'gŭl** in mind. As soon as you can read a line of Korean writing, you are ready to try to do the whole exercise in the script. Most of the exercises involve inserting or changing just a single word – ideal activities for practising your writing skills. Of course, the answers for these and all the other exercises are provided in both romanization and **han'gŭl** in the textbook key.

Finally, as with any language-learning activity, the more time you put in, the more progress you will make; equally important, however, is to do a little and often rather than, say, a two-hour stint twice a week.

11 Using a dictionary

Sooner or later you will probably want to invest in a Korean dictionary. We have included an alphabetical wordlist at the back of the handbook to give you some preliminary practice in looking up words in **han'gŭl**, and the notes below will help you to understand how Korean words are organized in dictionaries.

Dictionaries are arranged into different sections, first of all according to the initial consonant of a word. The consonants are arranged in the following order; their names are given in brackets.

ㄱ	(kiyŏk)
ㄴ	(niŭn)
ㄷ	(tigŭt)
ㄹ	(liŭl)
ㅁ	(miŭm)
ㅂ	(piŭp)
ㅅ	(siot)
ㅇ	(iŭng)
ㅈ	(chiŭt)
ㅊ	(ch'iŭt)
ㅋ	(k'iŭk)
ㅌ	(t'iŭt)
ㅍ	(p'iŭp)
ㅎ	(hiŭt)

Within each of these sections, the words are arranged according to their first vowel. The order in which vowels are listed is as follows.

ㅏ	ㅑ
ㅓ	ㅕ
ㅗ	ㅛ
ㅛ	ㅝ
ㅜ	ㅠ
ㅡ	ㅣ
ㅗ	ㅛ
ㅛ	ㅝ
ㅜ	ㅠ
ㅡ	ㅣ

Examples:

사과
생선
서류
수표
침
다
시
협

Words with the same initial consonant and vowel are then arranged according to the final consonant of the first syllable.

Examples:

가
다
갈
비
갑
이
갈
이

In some dictionaries, words beginning with a tense consonant (ㄱ ㅋ ㆁ ㆑ ㆒ ㆓ ; **ssanggiyŏk**, **ssangdigŭt**, **ssangbiŭp**, **ssangsiot**, **sangjiŭt**) are listed after the group of words beginning with the corresponding unaspirated consonant (ㄱ after ㄱ, ㆁ after ㆁ etc.), but in others they are listed as part of the main group, for example:

반
지
빨
리
밥

You can hear all the Korean letters read out in section 6 of the sounds recording (**han'gŭl**). Follow the transcript in your textbook (page 262) as you listen.

Finally, as with any language-learning activity, the more time you put in, the more progress you will make; equally important, however, is to do a little and often rather than, say, a two-hour session twice a week.

Key

Exercise 1

1. ㅏ
2. ㅡ
3. ㅗ
4. ㅜ

5. ㅓ
6. ㅕ
7. ㅗ
8. ㅜ

9. ㅓ
10. ㅕ

Exercise 2

1. ㄱ
2. ㄴ
3. ㄷ
4. ㄹ
5. ㅁ

6. ㅂ
7. ㅅ
8. ㅈ
9. ㅊ
10. ㅋ

11. ㆁ
12. ㆑
13. ㆒
14. ㆓

Key

Exercise 3

1. ㅏ
2. ㅓ
3. ㅕ
4. ㅗ
5. ㅜ

6. ㅓ
7. ㅕ
8. ㅗ
9. ㅜ
10. ㅓ

11. ㅕ
12. ㅗ
13. ㅜ
14. ㅓ

Exercise 4

1. ㅏ
2. ㅓ
3. ㅕ
4. ㅗ

5. ㅓ
6. ㅕ
7. ㅗ
8. ㅜ

9. ㅓ
10. ㅕ
11. ㅗ
12. ㅜ

Exercise 1

1	≡
2	—
3	⊥
4	⊢

5	1
6	π
7	τ

8	ト
9	ㇿ
10	十

Exercise 2

- 1 ka
- 2 nŏ
- 3 to
- 4 li
- 5 mu

6 po
7 so
8 cha
9 ch'i

10 k'o
11 t'a
12 p'i
13 hǒ

Exercise 3

1	산	san
2	봄	pom
3	싱	sing
4	년	nyŏn
5	누	nun

6	알	al
7	일	il
8	손	son
9	손	p'ök
10	용	yong

Exercise 4

- 1 maek
- 2 ne
- 3 hoe
- 4 ũi

5 mwöl
6 tweng
7 yae
8 p'ye

9 twi
10 chwa
11 wae

Exercise 5

- 1 화 등
- 2 약
- 3 관
- 4 관

- 5 칠
- 6 원
- 7 생

- 8 뒤
- 9 털
- 10 역

Exercise 6

- 1 kkok
- 2 tcha
- 3 ppang
- 4 ttal

- 5 tchŭm
- 6 ssŭ
- 7 ppŏ

- 8 ssa
- 9 kke
- 10 ttŏk

Exercise 7

- 1 밥
- 2 인
- 3 맥
- 4 경
- 5 뒀

- 6 변
- 7 환
- 8 눈
- 9 춤
- 10 때

- 11 되
- 12 손
- 13 줌
- 14 책
- 15 패

Exercise 8

- 1 tchik
- 2 kwŏn
- 3 shwip
- 4 tol
- 5 swae

- 6 myŏn
- 7 ch'in
- 8 ttŏk
- 9 chang
- 10 kye

- 11 ch'wi
- 12 tŭng
- 13 ssi
- 14 p'al
- 15 kyul

Exercise 9

- 1 kabang
- 2 norae
- 3 tambae
- 4 myŏngdong
- 5 oentchok
- 6 palta
- 7 sukpangnyo
- 8 yaksok
- 9 chadongch'a
- 10 ch'amoe

- 11 poksunga
- 12 han'gungmal
- 13 mar-hada
- 14 p'ainaep'ŭl
- 15 yŏhaengjasup'yo
- 16 silt'a
- 17 palbayo
- 18 anch'iman
- 19 ŏpsŏtta
- 20 salmŭn

Exercise 10

- 1 인 사
- 2 아 주 머 니
- 3 배 우 다
- 4 똥 벌
- 5 계 란

- 6 주 무 시 다
- 7 날 씨
- 8 딸 기
- 9 한 국
- 10 책 방

- 11 회 사
- 12 어 렵 다
- 13 신 호 등
- 14 열 심 리
- 15 화 장 실